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Letter No. 2329

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

September 10, 1987

U.S. WHEAT
TO U.K.

The imports of wheat by the United Kingdom may be greater than the 1 million tons currently estimated for the 1987/88 marketing year. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, this provides a potential for increased U.S. exports. U.K. weather problems are hurting crop prospects and quality. Consequently, millers are getting more interested in booking third country milling wheat. Although Australia and Canada are the principal suppliers of wheat to the U.K., the U.S. has supplied a small amount, between 30,000 and 75,000 tons annually during the last few years, and could benefit from any increase in imports.

INDIA WILL
NEED VEGETABLE
OILS

India's imports of vegetable oils are expected to increase significantly in 1987-88, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is the result of drought in the important agricultural regions in the north and northwest. In addition, the expected lower Indian oilseed meal exports could mean more exports of U.S. oilseed meals. India is a major importer of vegetable oils, mostly palm oil and soybean oil. Due to its expected lower oilseed output, the 1987/88 vegetable oil imports may rise to nearly 2 million 500 thousand tons, compared with 1 million 400 thousand to 1 million 600 thousand tons expected in 1986/87.

HERE COMES THE
BEE...SLOWLY

In an attempt to slow the spread of the Africanized bee, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources have agreed to cooperate on a program developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The program is being implemented in southern Mexico, just north of where the bees are currently known to have advanced. The area is a 100-mile-long zone, the narrowest part of Mexico. The bee will be attacked at each stage in its life cycle in an effort to delay the bee's movement long enough to give researchers and beekeepers time to find ways to manage it or stop it.

DAIRY CATTLE
SLAUGHTER

An estimated 13,000 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending August 22 as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1, 1986, through August 22, 1987, is an estimated 1,199,700 head.

CORN SALE
TO
YUGOSLAVIA

On September 4, private exporters reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 132,000 metric tons of corn for delivery to Yugoslavia during the 1987-88 marketing year.

United States Department of Agriculture

Radio-Television Division

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Washington D.C. 20250

TEST OF SWINE VIRUS VACCINE

Limited field trials to test a genetically engineered vaccine to control pseudorabies in swine will begin on October 9 in Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. An environmental assessment did not find any significant impact on the human environment. All veterinary biological products, such as vaccines, toxins and toxoids must be field tested to ensure they are pure, safe, potent and effective. After these requirements are met, the USDA may issue a license and the product can then be marketed.

BREAKING DOWN HERBICIDE WASTES

A newly developed experimental machine can inexpensively break down herbicide wastes on farms into harmless byproducts, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Wastes pass through two 55-gallon drums, easily carried on a pickup truck. Ozone in one drum and microorganisms in the other break down atrazine and alachlor into readily degradable products. Residues of both herbicides have been found in ground water samples at several sites across the country. This new method can help prevent pollution of ground water.

NEW TRICHINA TEST

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved the first serological test to detect trichinosis in swine. This paves the way for in-plant testing of meat and poultry for diseases and contaminants. The test is adapted from USDA-devised procedures. A plant in North Carolina is using the test, and pork examined and passed by the plant can be marketed as "certified" or "trichina tested." When testing reveals trichinosis, the USDA will visit farms to find the cause of the infection.

FRUIT CROP LARGER THAN LAST YEAR

This fall's supplies of fresh noncitrus fruit are expected to be substantially larger than last year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The apple crop forecast, at a record 9 billion 690 million pounds, is 23 percent more than the 1986 production. The total pear production is expected to be 10 percent above last year. The 1987/88 citrus crop probably will be larger than 1986/87, primarily because citrus groves in Florida and Texas continue to recover from recent freezes. Even though demand is expected to remain relatively strong, fresh fruit prices are likely to decline below a year ago this fall.

COMPUTERIZED BUGS

America's first national data base on plant pests is at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The data base contains information on 1,100 types of pests that attack plants. This National Agricultural Pest Information System, or NAPIS, stores the latest information on these pests, including their locations and their host crops. NAPIS provides a network of eyes and ears in the 50 states to track down exotic pests, direct research and help farmers improve crop yields. Industry groups and others who want to access the system should write to: NAPIS/APHIS, Room 608, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

SPRAY THE GRASS NOT THE CORN

Corn growers can cut back on the areas sprayed for European corn borers by as much as 85 percent by treating only the grassy areas in and around cornfields, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Studies in Iowa show that the best time to kill these pests is when they gather in grass at night to drink dew and to mate. (For more information, contact William B. Showers, USDA-ARS Corn Insects Research, Iowa State Univ. Research Farm, Box 45B, Ankeny, Ia. 50021.)

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

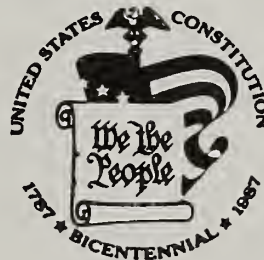
REVITALIZING RURAL AMERICA...In response to factors such as economic competitiveness, diminished resources, increased demands on services and other issues, a program for revitalization of America is underway. Dep. Sec. of Agri. Peter Myers talks about the Rural Information Center and the role it will have in rural development initiatives. Vic Powell interviews. (276)

COMMUNITY AWARENESS...Paul Stone, Extension Serv., N. Car., describes the impact foreign competition has had on rural America and talks about a five-point program recently established to help farmers and rural communities. Vic Powell interviews. (277)

TURKEY RUN FARM...Sec. of Agri. Richard Lyng presented certificates to three farm families at a recent ceremony in Washington as part of the Bicentennial of the Constitution recognizing those Americans whose farms have been in the same family for at least 200 years. Vic Powell interviews. (278)

CURRENT VEGETABLE OUTLOOK...Fresh market vegetable acreage was increased this year, producing shipments that were also slightly ahead of year-ago figures. USDA economist Cathy Green focuses on the current outlook for U.S. vegetables. Vic Powell interviews. (279)

INFRARED FIRE DETECTION...William Barrus, USDA infrared operations specialist, talks about research being conducted in Boise, Idaho, to detect forest fires through infrared fire detection systems. Vic Powell interviews. (280)



FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1580...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Making farm animals more productive through the use of genetic engineering is the theme of this edition. George Holmes travels to USDA's research lab in Philadelphia and talks to scientists about their work.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1568...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Practicing farm safety; Smart farm machines; Indonesia--a growing market; A "natural" death for the multiflora rose.

CONSUMER TIME #1059...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) "The smokeless showdown"; Clutter, clutter everywhere; Label reading; Low impact exercise; West Virginia 4-H Energy Conservation Corps.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Mon, Sept. 21, Agricultural resources; Tues, Sept. 22, Weekly weather and crop outlook; Wed, Sept. 23, World ag. outlook; Thurs, Sept. 24, World tobacco situation. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-88358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

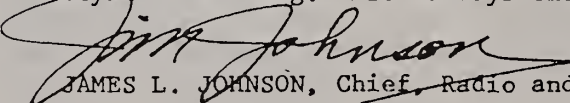
OFF MIKE

What do you do when you have to work out of boxes for over six months waiting for an "any day now" move to new work quarters? "You endure," according to Johnnie Hood (WPTF/Southern Farm Network, Raleigh, NC). After this weekend, Johnnie has a new address and phone number: 3012 Highwoods Blvd. and 919-876-0674 respectively. WPTF had been in its downtown location since 1964 and outgrew the facilities. As for coping with the delays, Johnnie says, "It's been interesting, and I should be out of the padded room by NAFB meeting time in Kansas City. ... Wayne Jenkins (Morning Agriculture Report, Indianapolis, IN) reports that co-anchor Brian Baxter heads for Europe on September 27 for nearly a month-long involvement in a young journalists program put on by the European Community's Visitor's Programme. Brian plans a series of reports for the Morning Ag Report while he's there. Wayne also says signs point to a cold winter: His cat and dog putting on heavy coats, "willy worm" coloration (or something) and "The most

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telling sign is a notice by the gas company that they want to raise their rates" ... Homer Quann, who retired from farm broadcasting and his job at WSVB, Harrisonburg, VA., is back. However, he reports he's still "semi-retired." He goes to work one or two days a week and produces enough features to last the week ... Our Brenda Curtis-Heiken is back from the national Radio and Television News Directors Association meeting in Florida. One of the interesting highlights was a seminar conducted by Ed Bliss who told the audience he had scrapped his original topic at the request of the program committee. Their new assignment was to get back to the basics of good news writing. And by basics he meant grammar, spelling, subject-verb agreement and a straightforward, simple style of writing. Brenda says the audience ate it up!


JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division